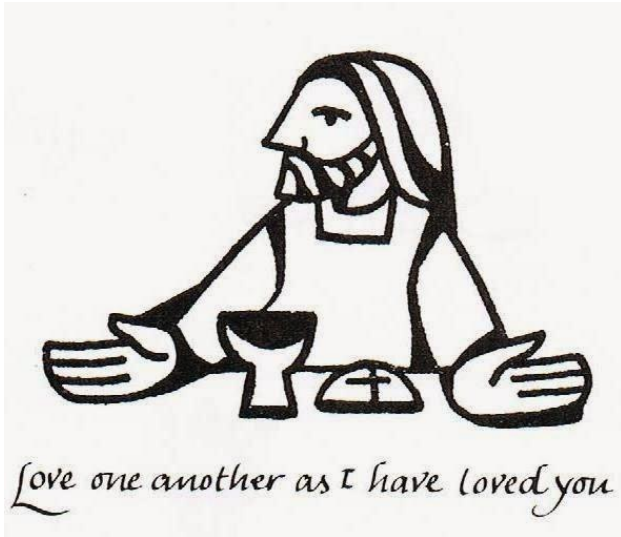


**September 1, 2019 – 10:00 am**  
**12th Sunday After Pentecost**



**ST. JOHN**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE PERDW VAN SLYKE
- PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.
- SCRIPTURE TEXTS FROM THE COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE.
- \*PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.
- **NCH** IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRELUDE: **“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”** Lani Smith

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Sing to God, our strength; cry out to God, our helper. Rejoice, and do not fear to appear before our God.

**MANY: It is God who led our ancestors through hard times. It is God who leads us through difficult days.**

One: God will not leave us or forsake us. God welcomes us to the banquet of life.

**MANY: God fills our mouth with good things. God offers us fountains of living water.**

One: Listen now to the voice of God and submit to God’s will. Hear the Word of God and turn away from worthless things.

**MANY: We will delight in the commandments of our God. We will share eagerly in the work God gives us to do.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION: Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of your presence in this time of worship. We have come to listen and to receive your counsel. Melt our stubborn hearts to remove the barriers that keep us from seeing your glory and doing your will. Challenge all that is worthless and unprofitable in our lives, that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 13**

Tune: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus")

**"O My Soul, Bless Your Creator"**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: O God, we are desolate and frightened, for there are evil things happening all around us. Help us hear your voice and sense your presence. There is a void within us that things cannot satisfy. We have reached for honors and recognition, but they provide no lasting fulfillment. Forgive our mistaken priorities and draw us to you, the source of living water.**

Silence for personal confession.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

**\*GLORIA: NCH 759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**FIRST TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 2:4-13**

**Lay Liturgist**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM READING: Psalm 81 Page 673-674**

**EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Lay Liturgist**

**TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

This is the Word of God. It is true and can be trusted.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SERMON:

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 332**

**“As We Gather at Your Table”**

PASTORAL PRAYER:

(Beginning with silent personal prayer)

THE LORD’S PRAYER: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: **NCH 772**

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,  
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,  
God alone fills us.**

OFFERTORY: **“We Are Called”** David Haas

\*DOXOLOGY: **NCH 780 (NEW WORDS)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done.  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION: **In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life, we invite those who live in poverty to share our wealth. We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters who lack food, shelter, or medical care. We**

reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor. Amen.

\*HOLY COMMUNION:

\*INVITATION RESPONSE: In company with saints and sinners in every time and beyond time, we come to this, God's welcome table, to meet the Risen Christ who invites us here.

One: God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift us your hearts

**ALL: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us praise God together.

**ALL: Let us give God thanks and praise.**

One: Blessed are you, Eternal God . . . .

**ALL: "Holy, Holy, Holy" NCH 790**

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna in the highest! (Be seated)**

One: We remember . . .

**THE ACCLAMATION: Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

One: Eternal God . . .

**ALL: Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in the fullness of time every cup will be filled to overflowing,**

**every table will be one of welcome, and every life will be filled with abundant love. Amen.**

**BREAKING THE BREAD AND SHARING THE CUP:  
SHARING THE ELEMENTS:**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH 539**

**“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: TUNE: “Amazing Grace”**

**Depart in peace to do God’s will;**

**Walk ever in the light,**

**For Christ is with you ever more,**

**To guide you day and night. *(Written by Ruth Duck)***

**\*POSTLUDE: “Ye Servants of God” Roger C. Wilson**